

MADISONVILLE EADON CREEK PARK

Project: Eadon Creek Observation Platform
Location: Madisonville, James County, Tennessee
Funding Year: 2004 (Land and Water Conservation Fund)
Contact Person for Environmental Review: William Bradshaw, Madisonville Parks Dept.
Phone Number: 615-555-0036
Project Sponsor: City of Madisonville
Project Contacts: William Bradshaw, 615-555-0036

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST

Project Description and Purpose

a. Description of proposed project

The City of Madisonville, in James County proposes to construct an observation platform at Eadon Creek Park. The park covers approximately 435 acres and is located on the shores of Eadon Creek that feeds the Cherokee Reservoir.

The observation platform will be approximately five (5) feet from the road, extend 20 feet, and span a width of 20 feet. The site of the existing overlook area is the proposed site for the observation platform.

b. Purpose and need of project

Presently, the vegetation in the area consists mostly of invasive exotics, such as Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*). The area is routinely mowed and weedeated to provide an unobstructed view from the overlook. Currently, there is heavy foot traffic at the site producing numerous barren trails. Although the heavy use is not reportedly a problem at this time, such activity could lead to erosion and other environmental issues. It is believed that the platform would reduce this impact while improving the visitor's experience.

The proposed observation platform meets needs identified in Section V and VI "needs analysis", and the Tennessee State Recreation Plan 2003-2008. The project is also identified as a need in the county recreation survey conducted in 2000.

Land Use Impacts

a. Right of Way Acquisition and Relocation Impacts

Approximately 5 acres will need to be acquired to provide parking and interpreting facilities.

No relocations will be required as a result of the proposed acquisitions and the proposed project will not impact or require any changes to neighborhood cohesion or travel patterns. The proposed project will not adversely impact any minority or low-income community. Furthermore, the project is anticipated to enhance local economies, including low-income communities throughout the project area.

b. Project consistency with local, state and regional plans

The Project is in conformity with local zoning regulations and is identified in the comprehensive county land use plan and the five-year capital improvement budget. The proposed project is also in compliance with the regional priorities identified in the Statewide Recreation Plan 2003-2008.

c. Any impact to farmland that is either prime, unique, of statewide importance, or of local importance.

The proposed project does not affect any prime farmland, forest or wetland resources. No negative impacts are foreseen for important or unique state, regional or local land base resources.

Air Quality Evaluation

There are no anticipated adverse impacts to air quality as a result of the construction or proposed project activities. **(In the event that Air Quality will be adversely affected either in construction or as a result of the activities associated with this facility, you must include a full description of measures to be taken to mitigate the problem.)**

Noise Impact Evaluation

No adverse increase in noise levels are anticipated as a result of the activities associated with this project. **(In the event that there will be an increase in noise due to the construction or activities associated with this facility, you must include a full description of measures to be taken to mitigate the problem.)**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

The Tennessee Historical Commission (SHPO) has reviewed the project for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It is the opinion of the Historical Commission that there are no National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible properties affected by this undertaking. **(See attached letter from the Tennessee Historical Commission.)**

The requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act have been fulfilled.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

A review of threatened and endangered species conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and all available data was reviewed to determine if any endangered or threatened species were present in the project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that no significant adverse impacts to wetlands or federally listed endangered or threatened species are anticipated from this project. **(See attached letters from the FWS and the Division of Natural Heritage of the Department of Environment and Conservation.)**

The requirements under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act have been fulfilled.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the proposed project and found that the project will not involve impacts to the waters of the United States. Therefore, there will not be a discharge of fill material into a jurisdictional water of the United States and a DA permit will not be required for the proposed work at the subject location. (See attached letter from the Army Corps of Engineers.)

Floodplain management - Executive Order 11988

The proposed project is not located in the floodplain, therefore floodplain management has no anticipated impacts. (Attached is a copy of the map of the National Flood Insurance Program for James County.)

Protection of Wetlands - Executive order 11990

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reviewed all available data to determine if any wetlands would be impacted. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that no significant adverse impacts to wetlands are anticipated from this project. (See attached letter from the FWS.)

Hazardous Waste Evaluation

There are no known hazardous waste sites within or directly adjacent to the proposed project area. Attached are letters from the Division of Remediation and the Division of Underground Storage Tanks indicating that they do not know of any hazardous waste problems with this site or close to the project area.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966

Section 4(f) provisions do not apply since the project activities will be within City Park boundaries and an improvement to the exiting park facility approved by the County alderman.

Other Impacts

There are no railroad crossings, cemeteries, utility relocations, or known geological hazards such as sinkholes that will be involved in the project area.

Review and Recommendation based on material submitted by City of Madisonville:

Mayor

Date

Note: This document must be dated after the date of the last clearance letter.

The project as proposed will not involve significant impacts to the existing land use. Based on the above findings and the fact that the project will not individually or cumulatively have any significant environmental impacts, it is our recommendation that the project be classified as a categorical exclusion under the provision of 23 CFR 771.117(d).

Michael P. Baumstark Sr. _____
Planning Manager
Recreation Educational Services

DATE: _____

CONCUR: _____
Federal Agency (if applicable)

DATE: _____